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REMARKS

Claims 27-86 are pending in the present application. Claims 27-86 have been rejected. No claims have been allowed. Claims 27, 33, 37 and 72 have been amended. Applicant believes the claim amendments add no new matter. In a slot game, outcomes to the slot game are associated with combinations of symbols from a set of symbols as shown in Fig.1. In Fig. 5, support for a controller operable to "dynamically change the indicium displayed on the flexible display during the operation of the gaming apparatus such that a first indicium displayed at a first time on the flexible display is removed from the flexible display at a later time" is at least provided (e.g., see 100, 102, 108 and 110 in Fig. 5)

I. In-Person of July 10, 2006

An in-person interview was conducted between Examiner Panos, Examiner Coburn, Keith Moore and David Olynick on July 10, 2006. Applicant thanks the Examiners for their time at the interview. 112 rejections and proposed claims to overcome the cited prior art were discussed. Applicant believes that in the interview it was agreed the application provides support to overcome the 112 rejections.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first Paragraph

Claims 32, 37, 44 and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first Paragraph. Support for these claims was discussed in the In-person interview to overcome the rejections. Applicants believes the rejections were overcome.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second Paragraph

Claims 52, 53 and 82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first Paragraph. Support for these claims was discussed in the In-person interview to overcome the rejections. Applicants believes the rejections were overcome.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 27-31, 33-36, 38-43, 45-76 and 78-86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griswold et al. (6,027, 115) in view of Acres, et al. (6,008,784) in view of Universal Display: FOLED Technology in further view of Business Week 2000: The tube.

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Griswold, as recited in the Background of present application, describes a reel with electroluminescent display elements. The electroluminescent elements are formed in a fixed pattern to form gaming symbols. These symbols rotate as the reel rotates. However, to change the gaming symbols the reels must be physically replaced. Further, the number of symbols on the reels is fixed.

Acres teaches a display with LEDs arranged around a curve but the display does not rotate. The reference mentions displaying alpha-numeric data for a jackpot/bonus display on a gaming machine. The reference doesn't mention displaying symbols for a slot game or any slot game applications for the display.

Universal display and Business Week describes a flexible displays. Neither reference makes no mention of their application to gaming.

As recited in the pending claims, a gaming apparatus comprising, a reel rotatable about an axis and a display operable to display an indicium comprising a pattern using the plurality of addressable pixels where the display is operable to rotate about the axis. A memory adapted for storing programming instructions or information for generating the game play indicia including the indicium. A controller is operatively coupled to the display and said controller is operable to i) detect a deposit of a medium of value ii) detect a wager; iii) cause said indicium to be displayed on said flexible display; iv) cause said motor to spin said reel; v) cause said motor to stop said reel; vi) determine a value associated with an outcome of a wager-based game played on the gaming apparatus, vii) select from a plurality of game play indicia the indicium to display on the flexible display wherein combinations of a selected set of game play indicia including the indicium are used to display outcomes for a slot game played on the gaming machine using the reel and the flexible display and viii) dynamically change the indicium displayed on the flexible display during the operation of the gaming apparatus such that a first indicium displayed at a first time on the flexible display is removed from the flexible display at a later time.

Griswold, the combination of Griswold, Acres, FOLED, or the combination Griswold, Acres, FOLED and Business Week 2000 don't teach a gaming apparatus with the limitations as recited in the pending claims. Griswold is the only reference that describes slot games. In Griswold, the number and pattern of symbols on the reel strip are fixed. It is not possible using the technology described in Griswold to "select from a plurality of game play indicia the indicium to display on the flexible display wherein combinations of a selected set of game play indicia including the indicium are used to display outcomes for a slot game played on the gaming machine using the reel and the flexible display and viii) dynamically change the

indicium displayed on the flexible display during the operation of the gaming apparatus such that a first indicium displayed at a first time on the flexible display is removed from the flexible display at a later time." Also, in Griswold, there is no reason to provide, "a memory adapted for storing programming instructions or information for generating the game play indicia including the indicium," because the game play indicia are a fixed component of the reel strip affixed to the mechanical slot reels described in Griswold.

Griswold makes provides no teachings or suggestion to make the modifications to a mechanical slot reel and controller as recited in the current limitations. The Acres, FOLED and Business Week don't describe slot games or the application of display technologies to slot games. In particular, these references make no mention of displays for mechanical slot reels. As the Acres, FOLDED, Business week references make no mention of slot games and reel technology or mention any problems associated with reel technology in a gaming environment and the Griswold reference doesn't provide a motivation/suggestion for the modifications proposed by the Examiner since Griswold makes no mention of displays/controllers with the features suggested by the current claims, Applicant doesn't see how the combination is valid to render the current claims obvious. In addition, if Examiner disagrees, Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to provide references and citations from the references that suggest a motivation for the modifications to the slot reels and gaming machines in Griswold indicated by the references. Thus, Applicant believes the combinations Griswold, Acres, FOLED and Business Week 2000 can't be said to render obvious the present invention as recited in claims 27-31, 33-36, 38-43, 45-76 and 78-86 and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

Claims 32, 37, 44 and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griswold et al. (6,027, 115) in view of Acres, et al. (6,008,784) in view of Universal Display: FOLED Technology in further view of Business Week 2000: The tube and in further view of Fletcher.

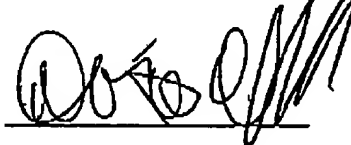
The combination of Griswold, Acres, Foled and Business Week, as described above, don't render the present claims obvious. Examiner describes Fletcher as teaching "The central server is a remote device that displays games selected from the player on each player's respective gaming machines, where information is inherently sent in order to run the game on the gaming machine and display the game play indicia." Claim 37 of the present application, for instance, recites a controller operable "to select from a plurality of game play indicia the indicium to display on the flexible display wherein combinations of a selected set of game play indicia including the indicium are used to display outcomes for a slot game

played on the gaming machine using the reel and the flexible display, iii) receive from a remote device programming instructions or information for changing the game play indicia available on the gaming apparatus." Again, Applicant believes the Examiner hasn't indicated any motivation/suggestion from the references that would lead one in skill of the art to make the modifications to Griswold proposed by the Examiner. In particular, Examiner hasn't indicated any teachings from Fietcher that suggest modifying a display of a mechanical reel and modifying a controller as recited in the current claims. Therefore, for at least these reasons, believes the combinations Griswold, Acres, FOLDED and Business Week 2000 can't be said to render obvious the present invention as recited in claims 32, 37, 44 and 77 and the rejections are believed overcome thereby.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in proper form and condition for patentability, and request a Notification of Allowance to that effect. If any fees are due in connection with this Response to Office Action or for this application in general then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0388, referencing Docket No. IGT1P267. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below with any questions or concerns relating to this document or application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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